

Town of



AMHERST

Massachusetts

TOWN HALL  
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May 10, 2011

Dear Town Meeting Member,

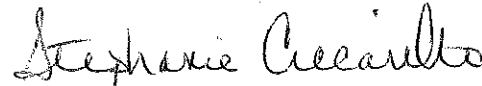
I am writing to you on behalf of the Amherst Energy Task Force to ask for your support in voting YES on Warrant Article 24 to authorize the lease of all, or a portion of, the old landfill for the purpose of installing and operating a solar array for electric power generation and distribution.

In October, 2005, the Energy Task Force issued a Climate Action Plan which outlined strategies and goals for the Town in reducing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, a contributor to global warming or climate change. The ultimate goal was to reduce the Town's 1997 level of CO<sub>2</sub> by 35%.

From the Task Force's perspective, the proposed use of the landfill for a solar array installation is consistent with the goals and mission of their plan. The major benefits to Amherst would be the ability to supply virtually all of the town's electricity needs from a clean, renewable resource and **to reduce Amherst's carbon emissions by over 6,000 tons annually** – the equivalent of removing over 1,200 cars from the road.

At a time when predicted climate changes are occurring at a more accelerated pace than originally predicted, the Task Force urges your support of Warrant Article 24. It is understood that other potential environmental impacts and issues will be addressed in the extensive permitting process overseen by various town committees, state and federal agencies.

Respectfully,

  
Stephanie Ciccarello,  
Energy Task Force Coordinator,  
on behalf of the Energy Task Force